

CHAPTER 1

General Information and Background

1-100 Mission

The mission of the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service is two-fold: a) to provide U.S. military commanders overseas and at sea with sufficient electronic media resources to effectively communicate DoD, Service-unique, theatre, and local command information to personnel under their command, and b) to provide U.S. military members, DoD civilians, and their families stationed outside the continental United States (CONUS) with the same type and quality of American radio and television information and entertainment that would be available to them if they were in the CONUS,

1-101 Policy Guidance

General overall policy guidance concerning AFRTS is contained in DoD Directive 5120.20 (reference (a)). Policy guidance is developed and issued by OASD(PA)/AFIS, and carried out by the Broadcasting Services of the Military Departments (Army, Navy, Air Force).

1-102 Organizational Relationships and Responsibilities

1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) (ASD(PA)) provides policy and operational direction for the management and operation of AFRTS .

2. The American Forces Information Service (AFIS) develops standard procedures and policies for the management and operation of AFRTS. It ensures that a free flow of information and entertainment programming is provided to overseas military personnel, DoD civilians, and their family members without censorship, propagandizing, or manipulation. It establishes standards for the training of personnel involved in AFRTS operations and maintenance and issues policy direction.

3. The Armed Forces Radio and Television Service Broadcast Center (AFRTS-BC), Los Angeles, CA, negotiates with the U.S. commercial broadcast industry and other sources of radio and television programs to be used by AFRTS outlets, and then provides this programming to the outlets by satellite, cable, shortwave, or mail. A field activity of AFIS, AFRTS-BC is the only source authorized to procure commercial programming for distribution to AFRTS outlets.

4. The Television-Audio Support Activity (T-ASA), Sacramento, CA, is the defense activity designated to procure and issue "off the shelf" state of the art commercial radio and television broadcast equipment to AFRTS outlets. T-ASA issues technical guidance on the use and maintenance of AFRTS broadcast equipment and provides on-site engineering studies and equipment installation assistance when requested to do so by the requiring activity. T-ASA acts as the commodity manager for the life-cycle management of AFRTS equipment systems, including end items, repairable, and consumables. T-ASA is a field activity of the U.S. Army Information Systems Command (USAISC).

5. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall provide, through their AFRTS centralized management elements (the Broadcasting Services), all personnel, financial, engineering, maintenance, and logistic resources required to establish, manage, control, operate, and maintain AFRTS outlets under the cognizance of their Department. This includes budgeting and planning for the FYDP outyears. In accordance with DoD Directive 5035.1 (reference (b)), they shall also negotiate Interservice Support Agreements (ISSA's) wherever an AFRTS outlet serves personnel of more than one Service. ISSA'S shall normally be negotiated at the lowest feasible level. Those that cannot be agreed upon at any feasible level before reaching the Military Department Secretary level shall be adjudicated, in coordination with the Secretaries involved, by the Director of AFIS. The Secretaries are also responsible for ensuring that nothing inhibits the free flow of radio and television information and **entertainment** programming and Service-unique information to overseas military personnel, DoD civilians, and their family members.

6. The Broadcasting Services. The Army Broadcasting Service (ABS), the Navy Broadcasting Service (NAVBCSTSVC), and the Air Force Broadcasting Service (AFBS) provide the centralized management element within their respective Military Departments for the operation and maintenance of AFRTS outlets under the control and jurisdiction of their Military Department. The Broadcasting Services are responsible for the centralized management of all AFRTS assets (personnel, equipment, financial resources) within their Military Department. ABS operates under the aegis of the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Secretary of the Army (SAPA); NAVBCSTSVC operates under the Chief of Information, Department of the Navy (CHINFO); and AFBS operates under the Air Force Service Information and News Center (AFSINC), Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs (SAF/PA).

7. The Commanders of Unified and Specified Commands shall annually provide AFIS and AFRTS-BC a list of any subjects considered sensitive to the **governments** of the host countries in which Unified and/or Specified Commands are located and AFRTS outlets are operating. Commanders of Unified and Specified Commands shall ensure that nothing inhibits the free flow of news, information, and entertainment programming to the AFRTS audience. They shall adhere to AFIS broadcast policy that prohibits censorship, propagandizing, or **manipulation** and which mandates that overseas DoD personnel and their family members are entitled to the same type of news, information, and entertainment programming as their fellow citizens in the United States. They will also maintain close contact and coordination with U.S. Embassy and/or Country Teams, **as required**, to negotiate agreements or memorandums with host countries for establishing and/or operating of AFRTS outlets. Upon request, the Director AFIS shall conduct any other negotiations with host governments required for the successful continued operation of AFRTS outlets. Negotiations with host governments for local reception and broadcast of SATNET programming shall be handled by AFIS representatives with assistance from Unified and/or Specified Commanders.